to Krishnapattanam Port under the Assistance to States for Development to Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Since the ASIDE Scheme was not designed to meet the requirements of such a large infrastructure project, it was not possible to fund the project under the said Scheme.

**Parlours by Tea Board in Tamil Nadu**

3044. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up parlours by Tea Board in Coonoor and other near by locations to promote tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up such parlours in other locations in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) Tea Board has no proposal to set up tea parlours in Coonoor or in any other location in Tamil Nadu to promote tea. However, Tea Board has a scheme to encourage entrepreneurs to set up tea parlours for serving good quality tea aimed at upgrading tea drinking habits and promoting tea as a versatile drink.

**Export of different commodities**

3045. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five commodities-transport equipment, petroleum-crude and products; machinery and instruments, gems and jewellery and ready-made garments including accessories accounted for 42 per cent of country's aggregate exports during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite initial setbacks, textiles exports and clothings have picked up and recorded a good export growth during April-May, 2005;

(d) which are the other items which have shown significant growth in exports; and

(e) what is the action plan of Government to give a further fillip to export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) According to provisional data for April-August, 2005-2006 provided by DGCI&S, the details of transport equipment, petroleum-crude and products, machinery and instruments, gems and jewellery and ready-made garments including accessories are as follows;

| Commodity | Value in US $ Million | Growth (%) | Share (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Transport Equipment | 1750.50 | 65.87 | 4.80 |
| Petroleum Products | 3680.34 | 61.33 | 10.09 |
| Machinery & Instruments | 1637.62 | 33.11 | 4.49 |
| Gems & Jewellery | 6294.65 | 23.90 | 17.26 |
| Readymade Garments | 2942.25 | 16.99 | 8.07 |
| Total above | 16305.36 | | 44.71 |
| India's Total Export | 36466.99 | 24.97 | |

(c) Textiles exports (including handicrafts, carpets and cotton raw incl. waste) recorded a growth rate of 10.29% during April-May, 2005-2006 as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

(d) During the period of April-August, 2005-06 export products showing significant growth were Transport equipment, Petroleum products, Iron ore and Inorganic/Organic Agro-chemicals.

(e) Export promotion is an ongoing endeavour of the Government. Recent initiatives to give an added fillip to export growth include enactment of the SEZ Act 2005, setting up of Free Trade Warehousing

Zones (FTWZs) giving a major thrust to procedural simplification to reduce transaction costs of exporters and engaging in greater economic cooperation with other countries through regional trade agreements.

**Agreement between India and Belarus to double trade**

3046. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact India and Belarus have entered into an agreement to double their trade;

(b) if so, the details of the tie-ups between the two countries to achieve the objective; and

(c) what is the present status of trade between the two countries and which are the main items of trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present status of India-Belarus trade is as under:-

(In rupees crores)

| Year | Exports | Imports | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005* | 45.07 | 53.41 | 98.48 |
| 2004-2005 (April-August) | 15.86 | 22.80 | 38.66 |
| 2005-2006* (April-August) | 18.80 | 65.20 | 84.00 |

*(Provisional)
Source: DGCI&S

The main items of export from India to Belarus are drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals, machinery and instruments, tobacco unmanufactured, electronic goods, tea etc.

The main items of import from Belarus to India are synthetic & regenerated fibres, iron and steel, inorganic chemicals etc.